Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method for exposing transaction status in a supply chain having disparate systems, comprising:

a trading partner exchange electronically receiving an order ~~creation~~ notification [[of]] <u>corresponding to</u> an order created [[in]] <u>by</u> a first trading partner system, said received order ~~creation~~ notification being associated with a first trading partner system identifier, said created order defining a transaction between a customer and a first trading partner;

responsive to receiving the order ~~creation~~ notification, the trading partner exchange automatically assigning a unique transaction identifier to the transaction;

the trading partner exchange electronically receiving at least one ~~order~~ <u>activity</u> notification of an ~~order~~ activity ~~from~~ <u>performed by</u> at least a second trading partner system, the at least one ~~order~~ <u>activity</u> notification describing an action of a second trading partner corresp onding to the transaction and being associated with a second trading partner system identifier, wherein said first trading partner system and said at least second trading partner system are disparate systems that jointly define a transaction processing chain;

responsive to receiving the ~~order~~ activity notification, the trading partner exchange automatically associating said unique transaction identifier to said second trading partner system identifier;

the trading partner exchange linking said unique transaction identifier to said order ~~creation~~ notification and said at least one ~~order~~ activity notification and, wherein cross referencing the first and second trading partner system identifiers using the unique

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transaction identifier provides a status of the transaction at a point in the transaction processing chain; [[and]]

the trading partner exchange electronically reporting status of the transaction via an integrated access interface;

providing the first, the second, or another trading partner access to transaction analysis information electronically generated by the trading partner exchange based upon said unique transaction identifier, said order notification, and said at least one activity notification;

providing access to transaction tracking information to a customer who initiated the order while denying the customer access to the transaction analysis information, said transaction tracking information electronically generated by the trading partner exchange based upon said unique transaction identifier, said order notification, and said at least one activity notification;

formatting at least one of said transaction analysis information and said transaction tracking information in response to selecting one of a plurality of communication channels for conveying information, said formatting corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of communication channels selected.

2.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein said linking step comprises:

providing the trading partner exchange having the integrated access interface communicatively linked to an access platform, said access platform having a plurality of layers though which access to the trading partner exchange is provided, said layers including an access layer, a display layer, and an analytical layer, wherein the access layer provides access through a plurality of different communication channels, wherein the display layer provides different views for different types of trading partners, wherein the analytical layer provides reports, and wherein trading partners using disparate

computing systems are able to access reports of the analytical layer through views of the display layer via communication channels of the access layer, said disparate computing systems including the first trading partner system and the second trading partner system.

3.   (Previously Presented)   The method according to claim 1, wherein said reporting step is responsive to a query received from an access platform linked to the integrated access interface, said access platform accessible by customers and said trading partners.

4.   (Currently Amended)   A method for exposing order status in a supply chain having disparate systems, comprising:

receiving at a central exchange, an order ~~creation~~ notification for an initiated transaction from one of a plurality of trading partners in a transaction processing chain having disparate systems and assigning a unique identifier for said initiated transaction, wherein an identifier associated with said order ~~creation~~ notification is linked with said unique identifier;

receiving at a central exchange, an ~~order~~ activity notification associated with said initiated transaction from at least another of said plurality of trading partners and linking an identifier associated with said ~~order~~ activity notification to said unique identifier,

wherein cross referencing said identifier associated with said order ~~creation~~ notification and said identifier associated with said ~~order~~ activity notification using the unique transaction identifier provides a status of the transaction at a point in the transaction processing chain; and

responsive to a request for status information, providing said requested status information to a requester based on said linked identifier and said unique identifier via an access platform, said requested information formatted for a selected channel, wherein the central exchange has an integrated access interface communicatively linked to the access

platform, the access platform having a plurality of layers though which access to the central exchange is provided, said layers including an access layer, a display layer, and an analytical layer, wherein the access layer provides access through a plurality of different communication channels, and wherein the display layer provides different views for different types of trading partners; and wherein the analytical layer provides reports, wherein trading partners using disparate computing systems are able to access reports of the analytical layer through views of the display layer via communication channels of the access layer;

wherein, if said requester is a trading partner, providing said requested status information comprises providing transaction analysis information electronically generated by said central exchange based upon said unique transaction identifier, said order notification, and said at least one activity notification;

wherein, if said requester is a customer who initiated the transaction, providing said requested status information comprises providing access to transaction tracking information to said requester while also denying the customer access to the transaction analysis information, said transaction tracking information electronically generated by said central exchange based upon said unique transaction identifier, said order notification, and said at least one activity notification.

5.   (Previously Withdrawn)   A system for exposing order status in a supply chain having disparate systems, comprising:

a trading partner exchange (TPE) communicatively interfaced to a plurality of trading partners, said TPE identifying an initial transaction and linking corresponding trading partner transaction status information with said initial transaction;

an access platform communicatively interfaced with said TPE, said access platform formatting said transaction status information according to a selected channel format; and

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an access interface communicatively linked to said TPE, said access interface facilitating communication with said access platform.

6.   (Previously Withdrawn)   A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving an order from a first trading partner system, said order initiating a transaction;

linking a status reported by a second trading partner system corresponding to said transaction, wherein said first trading partner system and said second trading partner systems are disparate systems; and

reporting said linked status corresponding to said transaction, said status formatted for a particular channel.

7.   (Previously Withdrawn)   The machine readable storage of claim 6, wherein said linking step comprises:

receiving an identifier for said status reported by said second trading partner, said identifier corresponding to said transaction; and

linking said received identifier to an assigned unique identifier corresponding to said transaction.

8.   (Previously Withdrawn)   The machine readable storage according to claim 6, wherein said reporting step is responsive to a query received from an access platform, said access platform accessible by customers and said trading partners.

9.   (Previously Withdrawn)   A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving at a central exchange, an initial order for a transaction from one of a plurality of trading partners having disparate systems, said central exchange assigning a unique identifier for said initial order to said transaction, said receiving step for exposing order status in a supply chain having disparate systems;

linking an identifier identifying an activity status from said trading partners for said transaction to said unique identifier; and

responsive to a request for information, providing said requested information to a requester based on said linked identifier and said unique identifier, said requested information formatted for a selected channel.

10.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, wherein said first trading partner system and said second trading partner system are independently developed systems having different architectures.

11.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1, within the trading partner exchange is remotely located from the first trading partner system and the second trading partner system.

12.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:

utilizing the unique transaction identifier to interface the trading partner exchange with the first trading partner system and to interface the trading partner exchange with the second trading partner system for communications associated with the transaction.

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13.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

the trading partner exchange including a status record associated with the unique transaction identifier, said status record being used by the trading partner exchange to generate a status of the transaction at least one logical point in the transaction processing chain.

14.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

linking the first trading partner system to the unique transaction identifier using the first trading partner system identifier; and

linking the second trading partner system to the unique transaction identifier using the second trading partner system identifier.

15.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

the trading partner exchange receiving from a third trading partner system an additional activity notification indicating another action corresponding to the transaction and having a third trading partner system identifier, wherein the reported status is based upon the additional activity notification.

16.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 11, wherein the first trading partner system uses the integrated access interface to access the trading partner exchange through an access channel and wherein the second trading partner system uses the integrated access interface to access the trading partner exchange through a different access channel.

17.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 11, wherein the trading partners comprise a customer, a distributor, and a manufacturer, said method further comprising the step of:

the customer, the distributor, and the manufacturer accessing the status of the transaction through the integrated access interface.

18.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 17, wherein the integrated access interface provides a plurality of access channels for communicating to the trading partner exchange.

19.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 4, wherein said disparate systems are independently developed systems having different architectures.

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